

It not be a manifest robbery upon A. to re-build at his own expense?

Russell, for defendant, contended that when persons chose to be their own architects, they must be so on their own responsibility. The builder only had to work to orders. His client had received the orders as to size, site, and design of the shed, and merely acted as he was desired. The manifest robbery would be if he had to be at the cost of the rebuilding.

The Judge ruled that defendant was supposed to know his business, and that plaintiff was not liable for the cost of the second erection. The referee then valued the work done for once only, and adjudged the value at £6. 14s. Verdict for plaintiff less the referee's award.

#### LANDLORD AND TENANT—ILLEGAL DISTRESS.

TAIT P. RICHARDSON, in Clerkenwell County Court.

This was an action to recover compensation in damages for an alleged illegal and excessive distress. It appeared from the evidence of the plaintiff (who described himself as a chemist and a policeman in easy and independent circumstances on the Great Northern Railway), that he formerly occupied apartments of the defendant, who is a news-vender and stationer, from whence he (plaintiff) resided. The removal took place in open day, but the defendant followed the goods, which he distrained for nine weeks' rent. The witness denied that he was in any way indebted to the defendant, and with a view to substantiate his assertion, put in a receipt, without a date, for 2*l.* 10*s.*, which sum both he and his wife swore positively was paid in liquidation of the defendant's claim.

The defendant deposed that, at the time the distress was made, the plaintiff was nine weeks' rent in arrear, and that the receipt for the 2*l.* 10*s.* was given for rent previously due. The receipt now produced was a duplicate acknowledgment for the payment of that sum, and had no reference whatever to the claim for which the distress was made.

His Honour observed that, although the defendant had acted illegally, it was manifest that a gross attempt had been made on the part of the plaintiff to swindle and defeat his landlord; for it was as clear as possible that the receipt, which he had endeavoured to palm off as having been given for the payment of the rent for which the defendant had distrained, had reference to a former transaction. He had no doubt whatever that the rent was justly due; but as the goods were not removed clandestinely, the landlord had no power to distress upon them after their removal from his premises. As the plaintiff was therefore entitled to a verdict, he would award him half the amount sought to be recovered, viz., 4*l.* This was afterwards increased to 4*l.* 15*s.* to carry costs.

#### BOOKS.

*A Reply to Lord Wharcliffe's Letter on Draining.* By HERWITT DAVIS. London: Ridgway; Simpkin and Marshall.

MR. HERWITT DAVIS, in this pamphlet, supports deep parallel draining in opposition to a mixed system set forth by Lord Wharcliffe. We are quite assured ourselves of the superiority of deep drainage, but we see no reason for acrimony on the part of those who are discussing the question.

*The House on the Rock.* By the Author of "The Dream Chintz," "A Trap to catch a Sunbeam," &c. London: W. N. Wright, Pall Mall. 1852.

SUCH a title as "The House on the Rock" in *THE BUILDER*, suggests instructions in concreting and piling, and in other ways obtaining a safe foundation. It belongs, however, in truth, to the last, or we would rather say the latest, of a series of charming little tales which have been produced in rapid succession by a gifted and right-minded young lady, the daughter of one well known and esteemed by the public. We are glad to find the previous tales have been sold by thousands, both here and in America, and we augur for "The House on the Rock" a similar popularity. It has a frontispiece and title-page designed by James Godwin, the latter more particularly excellent.

**ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION.**—We would remind our readers that all works intended for exhibition must be sent in on the 1st or 2nd of January. Money subscription not asked, and will doubtless be forthcoming.

#### Miscellaneous.

**SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.**—In a lecture on art recently delivered at the Avonham Institution, by Mr. Hamperley, the principal of the Manchester School of Design, the lecturer, after pointing out the great importance of schools of design to a manufacturing district, suggested the desirability of endeavouring to get a local rate levied of, say, a farthing in the pound, which would not be very oppressive to anybody. That was the way in which they supported schools of design in France and Prussia. It was a most fallacious thing to go on supporting them out of voluntary contributions: by that means they put their hands into the pockets of the generous, and allowed the stingy to go scot-free; and as the stingy formed about nine-tenths of the population, of course the generously disposed had to pay for them. But there was another means of supporting these institutions; and that was the surplus fund of the Great Exhibition. He most emphatically declared that that surplus stood a very fair chance of being thrown away. He understood it was to be appropriated to centralizing in London some gigantic scheme of what was called "the practical application of science to manufacture;" that was, it would be something equivalent to an accumulated series of museums. He contended that it was neither fair nor legitimate, nor likely to end in any good, to have the expenditure of the money centralized in any shape in London. What was the Great Exhibition in itself? Although it appeared to be a never-ending accumulation of all sorts of things from all sorts of places, still there was no doubt that all could be brought down to three distinctive heads, viz., raw material, machinery, and art. The Exhibition, therefore, resolved itself into being an embodiment of these three forces, which were to be found in every manufacturing town in Great Britain; and it did appear to him that the use of this surplus should be, not for the benefit of any one of these, but for the mutual benefit of all three, for they were all inseparably allied. He strongly recommended that an application should be made to Parliament in the next session (and he would assist them in drawing up the requisite documents), out of which he firmly believed they would get some pecuniary aid.

**THE LEICESTER-SQUARE SOUP KITCHEN.**—This active and untiring charity proposes to supply substantial Christmas fare, in the form of presents, to no less than 10,000 poor families, especially of the industrious struggling class, who, in the midst of severe privations, are nevertheless too self-dependant to be bangers-on for parish relief. Such a charity well merits extended and general support, and we should earnestly hope that the managing committee will be fully enabled to carry out their benevolent design, the adequate fulfilment of which depends greatly on the influx of the means necessary, whether in money or in material. Those who are too late in contributing their mite for this special purpose, could not do better than still forward it for the general purposes of the charity, which does an immense deal of good, especially during this the most trying and inclement season of the year. Our only regret is that our own entreaties cannot come before our readers in sufficient time to "increase their store" of beef and plum-pudding, tea, coffee, and sugar, for the Christmas distribution itself.

**MARKET FOR CHELMSFORD.**—A proposal to obtain a market-place for Chelmsford, much needed, appears likely to be abandoned through want of agreement as to site, and the inhabitants seem to be quite willing to surround the statue of Chief-Justice Tindal with the swine which one of his chroniclers informs us he "delighted in so much;" and to obstruct its roadway with bullocks, to the annoyance and danger of those who are unfortunate enough to be necessitated to pass through them—the whole forming a hack and fore-ground to the statue. The matter is of importance to the town, and it is to be hoped that something will shortly be done.

**METROPOLITAN.**—It is stated in the report of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, just published, that the Commissioners have sold a piece of ground from Charlotte-street to Long-acre as a site for baths and wash-houses for St. Giles' and St. George's parishes. The parishes have paid 2,650*l.* for the site. A sum of 30,000*l.* has been appropriated by the Commissioners towards the expense of forming and completing a line of street between Southwark and Westminster-bridge. The Commissioners have lent 30,000*l.* to the Westminster Improvement Commissioners, to enable them to complete and open the new street from Westminster Abbey to Piccadilly. It appears that on the 31st of March last there were 1,013 men employed on the new Houses of Parliament—742 upon the works at the building, 163 at the workshops and on the Thames bank, and 109 at the other establishments. The Commissioners of Public Works are to advance 120,000*l.* for the new suspension-bridge and Thames embankment at Chelsea. It appears that the cost of taking down, removing, and reinstating the marble arch was little short of 11,000*l.* The state of the streets of London during the past week has been very discreditable to the authorities. The contractors ought to be heavily fined.

**NEW ROOFING.**—The patent recently enrolled by Mr. C. Cowper refers to a tile or plate of thin sheet iron, coated with an enamel protecting the metal from the weather. The tiles may be of any suitable form. The body of the tile is cut or stamped of the proper shape. It also has a raised head formed round the edge, to prevent the water running off the tile, except at the lower end, where it drips on to the next. Two holes are also punched for fixing the tiles to the woodwork. The patentee sometimes rivets a hook so as to project on the under side of the tile; the stem of the hook is rivetted through a hole in the metal plate before it is enamelled, and obviates the necessity of an India rubber washer under the head of the nail. The coating is applied in two separate compounds, the one as the body and the other as a glaze. The body consists of sand or silica. The glaze is applied in fine powder, dusted on the wet coating. The powder adhering to the moist coating causes it to set in some measure, when the tile is deposited in a drying-room, previous to baking or firing. The tiles may be rendered ornamental by the application of colouring matters, which are burnt in.

**THE GREEN PARK.**—I am glad to see you are agitating for an opening from Constitution-hill into the Green-park, near the angle of Buckingham-palace. There is a wicket at this point already, but it is kept closed, for no reason that I can see except to save the keepers a few minutes' walk morning and evening. A passage this way would be a great convenience to the inhabitants of Westminster and Piccadilly. The Green park can only be entered now (from the southward) at its extreme end; and in order to pass from the Birdcage-walk to May-fair, a considerable detour must be made.—P.

**TENDERS FOR IRON.**—A correspondent, "R. W.," with reference to "A. B.'s" note as to price named for lamp-posts, Mile-end, asserts that a reasonable profit may be made, even on the low sum named. As "A. B." represents the opinions of some leading firms, we must conclude there are secrets in the iron trade worth knowing.

**CORK CITY HALL COMPETITION.**—The committee have received forty-six plans from forty-three persons. It has been suggested in the corporation that they should be referred to a London architect for examination. One of our correspondents says this is the more desirable as one of the gentlemen competing has a relative on the committee.

**THE LATE MR. J. M. W. TURNER, R.A.**—By the death of Mr. Turner, the world has lost one of the greatest landscape painters that ever lived. His mind and character will afford curious matter for analysis to psychological writers. He has left a large fortune behind him, and will be buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.